

**Article 9.5: Noise Abatement and Control**

**Division 8: Sound Trucks — Loud Speakers — Sound Amplifiers**

*(“Sound Trucks — Loud Speakers — Sound Amplifiers”  
added 2–23–1987 by O–16813 N.S.)*

**§59.5.0801 Sound Trucks — Loud Speakers — Sound Amplifiers Defined**

- (a) “Sound Truck” — shall mean any motor vehicle, or any other vehicle regardless of motive power, whether in motion or stationary, having mounted thereon or attached thereto, any sound amplifying equipment.
- (b) “Sound Amplifying Equipment” — the words, “sound amplifying equipment” as used herein shall mean any machine or device for the amplification of the human voice, music or any other sound. “Sound amplifying equipment” as used herein shall not be construed as including standard automobile radios when used and heard only by occupants of the vehicle in which installed or warning devices on authorized emergency vehicles or horns or other warning devices on other vehicles used only for traffic safety purposes.

*(“Sound Trucks — Loud Speakers — Sound Amplifiers Defined” added 2–23–1987 by O–16813 N.S.)*

**§59.5.0802 Noncommercial Use of Sound Trucks — Registration Required**

It shall be unlawful for any person to use or cause to be used a sound truck with its sound amplifying equipment in operation for noncommercial purposes in the City of San Diego before filing a registration statement with the Director of the Communications Division of the General Services Department. This registration statement shall be filed in duplicate and shall state the following:

- (a) Name and home address of the applicant;
- (b) Address of place of business of applicant;
- (c) License number and body style, make and year of the sound truck to be used by applicant;
- (d) Name and address of person who owns the sound truck;
- (e) Name and address of person having direct charge of the sound truck;

- (f) Names and addresses of all persons who will use or operate the sound truck;
- (g) The purpose for which the sound truck will be used;
- (h) A general statement as to the section or sections of the City in which the sound truck will be used;
- (i) The proposed hours of operation of the sound truck;
- (j) The number of days of proposed operation of the sound truck;
- (k) A general description of the sound amplifier and of each accessory unit to be used with it.

*("Noncommercial Use of Sound Trucks — Registration Required" added 2-23-1987 by O-16813 N.S.)*

**§59.5.0803 Endorsement of Registration Statement of Noncommercial Sound Trucks**

All persons using or causing to be used sound trucks for noncommercial purposes shall submit their sound trucks together with the sound amplifying and sound reproducing equipment which they intend to use to an inspection to be given by or under the direction of the Director of the Communication Division of the General Services Department of the City of San Diego. The Deputy Director shall test said equipment in the course of his inspection and shall endorse the original registration statement of the person applying for a permit, together with the copies of said statement, if said equipment may be calibrated and/or controlled so as to comply with the regulations provided in this Division. Said endorsement shall designate the calibration or points at which the controls of the sound amplifying and reproducing equipment may be set in order to maintain the maximum sound level permissible under the regulatory provisions of this Division.

*("Endorsement of Registration Statement of Noncommercial Sound Trucks" added 2-23-1987 by O-16813 N.S.)*

**§59.5.0804 Registration Statement Amendment**

Any person using, or causing to be used, sound trucks for noncommercial purposes shall amend any registration statement filed pursuant to Section 59.5.0802 within forty-eight (48) hours after any change in the information therein furnished.

*("Registration Statement Amendment" added 2-23-1987 by O-16813 N.S.)*

**§59.5.0805 Registration and Identification**

The Director of the Communications Division of the General Services Department shall return to each applicant under Section 59.5.0802 one copy of said registration statement duly certified by the Director of the Communications Division of the General Services Department as a correct copy of said application. Said certified copy of the application, as endorsed, shall be in the possession of any person operating the sound truck at all times while the sound truck's sound amplifying equipment is in operation and said copy shall be promptly displayed and shown to any officer of the City of San Diego, upon request.

*("Registration and Identification" added 2-23-1987 by O-16813 N.S.)*

**§59.5.0806 Regulations for Use**

Noncommercial use of sound trucks in the City of San Diego with sound amplifying equipment in operation shall be subject to the following regulations:

- (a) The only sounds permitted are music or human speech.
- (b) Operations are permitted between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. at and during public events and affairs of interest to the general public.
- (c) Sound amplifying equipment shall not be operated unless the sound truck upon which such equipment is mounted is operated at a speed of at least ten (10) miles per hour except when said truck is stopped or impeded by traffic. Where stopped by traffic the said sound amplifying equipment shall not be operated for longer than one minute at each stop.
- (d) Sound shall not be issued within one hundred (100) yards of hospitals, schools, churches, or courthouses.
- (e) No sound truck with its amplifying device in operation shall be operated within the Central Traffic District of the City of San Diego as said Central Traffic District is defined in Chapter 8.
- (f) The human speech and music amplified shall not be obscene, lewd, indecent or slanderous.
- (g) The volume of sound shall be controlled so that said volume is not unreasonably loud, raucous, jarring, disturbing or a nuisance to persons within the area of audibility and so that the volume of sound shall not exceed an "A"

weighted sound level of 65 decibels on the “slow” scale at a distance of 50 feet from the sound amplifying equipment as measured by a sound level meter which meets “American National Standard” ANSI S1.4–1983 or its successor.

- (h) No sound amplifying equipment shall be operated unless the axis of the center of any sound reproducing equipment used shall be parallel to the direction of travel of the sound truck; provided, however, that any sound reproducing equipment may be so placed upon said sound truck as to not vary more than 15 (degrees) either side of the axis of the center of the direction of travel.
- (i) No sound truck with its amplifying device in operation shall be driven on the same street past the same point more than twice in a period of one hour.
- (j) It shall be unlawful to operate a noncommercial sound truck in violation of these regulations.

*(“Regulations for Use” added 2–23–1987 by O–16813 N.S.)*

#### **§59.5.0807 Commercial Use Sound Truck Regulated — License Required**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or cause to be operated any sound truck in the City of San Diego for commercial advertising purposes with sound amplifying equipment in operation unless an application has been made to the Director of the Communications Division of the General Services Department and said application has been approved and endorsed. The Director shall inspect and test said sound truck together with its sound amplifying and sound reproducing equipment to operate and conform to the regulatory provisions provided in Section 59.5.0806.

Said sound trucks shall be inspected on an annual basis to insure that their operation remains in conformity to the regulatory provisions contained in Section 59.5.0806. In the event said sound truck is found in violation of any regulatory provision contained in Section 59.5.0806, said violation shall be cause for revocation of such license.

*(“Commercial Use Sound Truck Regulated — License Required” added 2–23–1987 by O–16813 N.S.)*

#### **§59.5.0808 Application for License**

Persons applying for the license required under Section 59.5.0807, shall file with the Director of the Communications Division of the General Services Department an application in writing, giving in said application the information required in the registration statement required in Section 59.5.0802 and deposit the fee prescribed therefor in the City Composite Rate Schedule.

*(“Application for License” added 2–23–1987 by O–16813 N.S.)*

**§59.5.0809 Issuance of License**

A license shall be issued under Section 59.5.0807 upon payment of the required permit fee, unless the application required in Section 59.5.0808 hereof has been denied by the Director of the Communications Division of the General Services Department as indicated by writing or stamping with his signature “DENIED” on a copy of the license application.

*(“Issuance of License” added 2-23-1987 by O-16813 N.S.)*

**§59.5.0810 Possession and Display of License**

A licensee shall keep such license in his possession in the sound truck during the time the sound truck’s sound amplifying equipment is in operation. The license shall be promptly displayed and shown to any officer of the City of San Diego, upon request.

*(“Possession and Display of License” added 2-23-1987 by O-16813 N.S.)*

**§59.5.0811 Regulations for Use**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or cause to be operated any sound truck for commercial sound advertising purposes in violation of the regulations set forth in Section 59.5.0806.

*(“Regulations for Use” added 2-23-1987 by O-16813 N.S.)*